

SILICON NITRIDE WINDOW FOR MICROSAMPLING DEVICE

5 AND METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION

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TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates generally to a window constructed of silicon nitride, and more particularly to a cuvette window of a microsampling device and a method 15 of construction.

BACKGROUND

Diabetes mellitus is an insidious disease which affects more than 15 million Americans. About 1.5 million 20 of these are Type I diabetics (insulin-dependent) and 12 to 14 million are Type II diabetics (noninsulin-dependent). The characteristics of diabetes include chronic and persistently high levels of glucose in blood and in urine. Although urine glucose has been used to 25 monitor glucose levels, the measurement of blood glucose is more reliable and logically feasible. Blood glucose has therefore become the most commonly followed clinical marker for monitoring the progress of diabetes (and other diseases) to determine treatment and control protocols.

Glucose levels are routinely measured in doctors' 30 offices, clinical laboratories, and hospitals. However, the most convenient and important measuring is in-home self-monitoring of blood glucose levels by the patients themselves to permit adjustment of the quantities of insulin and hypoglycemics administered.